GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2565
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
IMPLEMENTATION OF SOFT DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Health Policy implemented by the Government during the year 1993 included measures to ensure safe drinking water, sanitation, immunization and fitness health facilities;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Government have achieved success in implementing these measures;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d): The National Health Policy announced by the Government in 1983 focussed on important inputs required for improved health care including inter-alia, water supply, sanitation and immunization. Water supply and sanitation being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/urban local bodies to plan, formulate, execute, operate and maintain these facilities from the State Plan resources. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for providing water supply facilities, Accelerated Urban and Rural Water Supply Programmes are being implemented.A Centrally sponsored Low Cost Sanitation Scheme is also under implementation.

Under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), immunization is given for prevention of vaccine preventable childhood diseases namely Diphtheria, Pertussis, Neonatal Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Childhood Tuberculosis and Measles.With the implementation of UIP, there has been decline in Childhood diseases.

Improved health care indices such as increase in life expectancy, decrease in infant mortality, birth and death rates and epidemiological shifts interms of reduction in diseases suggests that the health care infrastructure created by the Government have served the people well.